

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information distributing method of distributing information via a communication path to an information user unit from a first information providing resource unit and a second information providing resource unit, in said second information providing resource unit, said method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a program request from the information user unit which has received and displayed first information from said first information providing resource unit;

transmitting a predetermined program code to the information user unit according to the program request;

receiving an information request from said information user unit, said information request including an identifier of the first information and requesting said second information providing resource unit to transmit second information to said information user unit for displaying said second information linking to said first information, ~~said first information containing a link to said second information~~, said information request being transmitted from said information user unit based on an execution of the program code in said information user unit; ~~and~~

determining, in response to the information request, whether or not the second information is allowed to be displayed as being linked to said first information by checking a database indicating a correspondence between an identifier code of the second information and the identifier of the first information which is allowed to link to said second information; and

if said database indicates that said second information requested by said information user unit is allowed to be linked to said first information displayed in said information user unit, transmitting said second information to said information user unit~~be transmitted to said information user unit according to an identifier (URI) of said first information included in the information request and information indicating a correspondence between an identifier code (ID) specifying the second information and said identifier of first information.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) An information distributing method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the program code has a password;

the second request includes an identifier code to identify the second information to be quoted and the password; and

the determining step further includes a step of collating the password in the second request received from the information user unit with a valid password.

4. (Original) An information distributing method according to Claim 3, wherein the determining step allows the second request when the password in the second request is a valid password and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

5. (Original) An information distributing method according to Claim 4, further including a step of frequently changing a password in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

6. (Previously Presented) An information distributing method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the program code includes an encryption key to encrypt the second request;

the second request includes information obtained by encrypting an identifier code to identify the second information according to the encryption key; and

the determining step further includes a step of verifying to determine whether or not the second request can be decoded.

7. (Original) An information distributing method according to Claim 6, wherein the determining step allows the second request when the second request can be

decoded and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

8. (Original) An information distributing method according to Claim 7, further including a step of frequently changing an encryption key in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

9. (Original) An information distributing method according to Claim 1, wherein when the first information providing resource is a first server and the second information providing resource is a second server,

the first server distributes the first information via the communication path to a client as the information user unit and

the second server distributes, if the determining step allows the second request, the second information quoted in the first information to the client.

10. (Original) An information distributing method according to Claim 9, wherein the second server conducts the transmission of the program code and the determining step of allowance of the second request by a Web server program.

11. (Original) An information distributing method according to Claim 1, wherein when the first information providing resource and the second information providing resource are implemented by a common server,

said server distributes the first information via the communication path to a client as the information user unit and distributes, if the determining step allows the second request, the second information quoted in the first information to the client.

12. (Currently Amended) An information distributing apparatus for distributing information via a communication path to an information user unit, comprising:

means for sending a predetermined program code to the information user unit according to a first request from the information user unit which has received and displayed first information from a first information providing resource and

means for determining, in response to a second request received from said information user unit, said second request requesting a second information providing resource to transmit second information quoted in the first information according to the program code, whether or not the second request is allowed according to identifying information (URI) at least included in the second request and information including a correspondence between an identifier code (ID) specifying second information for which quotation is allowed in the second information providing resource and an identifier of first information in the first information providing source, said identifying information (URI) identifying said first information,

wherein if said second request is allowed, said second information is displayed at said information user unit as being linked to said first information.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein:

the program code has a password;

the second request includes an identifier code to identify the second information to be quoted and the password; and

the determining means further includes means for collating the password in the second request received from the information user unit with a valid password.

15. (Original) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the determining means allows the second request when the password in the second request is a valid password and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

16. (Original) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 15, further including means for frequently changing a password in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

17. (Original) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 16, further including a database for storing therein certain number of previous passwords and a current password.

18. (Previously Presented) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein:

the program code includes an encryption key to encrypt the second request;

the second request includes information obtained by encrypting an identifier code to identify the second information according to the encryption key; and

the determining means further includes means for verifying to determine whether or not the second request can be decoded.

19. (Original) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the determining means allows the second request when the second request can be decoded and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

20. (Original) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 19, further including means for frequently changing an encryption key in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

21. (Original) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 20, further including a database for storing therein a certain number of previous encryption keys and a current encryption key.

22. (Original) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein when the first information providing resource is an external first server and the second information providing resource is a second server,

the first server distributes the first information via the communication path to a client as the information user unit and

the second server distributes, if the determining step allows the second request, the second information quoted in the first information to the client.

23. (Original) An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the second server conducts the transmission of the program code and the determining step of allowance of the second request by a Web server program.

24. (Previously Presented) An information distributing apparatus in accordance with Claim 12, including a common server having the first information providing resource and the second information providing resource.

25. (Currently Amended) An information receiving method for an information user unit to receive information via a communication path from an information providing unit, comprising the steps of:

receiving and displaying first information from a first information providing resource;

issuing a request to a second information providing resource for a program code;

receiving a program code from the second information providing resource;

generating, according to the program code, a second request to receive, from the second information providing resource, second information quoted in the first information;

transmitting the second request to the second information providing resource; and

receiving from the second information providing resource the second information for which quotation is allowed by the second information providing resource according to identifying information (URI) at least included in the second request, said identifying information (URI) identifying said first information, and displaying said second information as being linked to said first information.

26. (Original) An information receiving method in accordance with Claim 25, wherein

the program code has a password used by the second information providing resource to determine whether or not transmission of the second information quoted is allowed and

the second request includes an identifier code to identify the second information to be quoted and the password.

27. (Original) An information receiving method according to Claim 25, wherein

the program code has an encryption key to encrypt the second request and

the second request includes information obtained by encrypting an identifier code to identify the second information according to the encryption key.

28. (Original) An information receiving method according to Claim 25, wherein when the first information providing resource is a first server and the second information providing resource is a second server,

a client as the information user unit receives the first information via the communication path from the first server and receives from the second server the second information quoted in the first information and allowed for transmission.

29. (Previously Presented) An information receiving method according to Claim 25, wherein when the first information providing resource and the second information providing resource are implemented by a common server,

a client as the information user unit receives the first information via the communication path from said common server and receives from said server the second information quoted in the first information and allowed for transmission.

30. (Currently Amended) An information user unit for receiving information via a communication path from an information providing unit, comprising:

means for receiving and displaying first information from a first information providing resource;

means for issuing a request to a second information providing resource for a program code;

means for receiving a program code from the second information providing resource;

means for generating, according to the program code, a second request to receive, from the second information providing resource, second information quoted in the first information and for transmitting the second request to the second information providing resource; and

means for receiving, from the second information providing resource, the second information for which quotation is allowed by the second information providing resource according to identifying information (URI) at least included in the

second request, said identifying information (URI) identifying said first information,
and displaying said second information as being linked to said first information.

31. (Original) An information user unit according to Claim 30, further including means for displaying or outputting the first information and the second information simultaneously.

32. (Currently Amended) An information distribution method of distributing information from an information providing unit via a communication path to an information user unit, comprising the steps of:

transmitting first information from a first information providing resource to an information user unit for display at said information user unit;

issuing a first request from the information user unit which has received the first information to a second information providing resource;

transmitting a predetermined program code from the second information providing resource to the information user unit according to the first request;

generating, according to the program code, a second request by the information user unit, said second request requesting a second information providing resource to transmit second information quoted in the first information ;

transmitting the second request to the second information providing resource;

determining in response to the second request whether or not the second request is allowed according to at least identifying information (URI) included in the second request, said identifying information (URI) identifying said first information; and

transmitting the second information allowed from the second information providing resource to the information user unit for display at the information user unit as being linked to the first information.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for distributing information via a communication path to an information user unit, the computer readable program code means, comprising:

means for receiving a first request from the information user unit which has received and displayed first information from a first information providing resource;

means for transmitting a predetermined program code to the information user unit according to the first request;

means for receiving a second request from said information user unit, said second request requesting a second information providing resource to transmit second information quoted in the first information according to the program code quoted in the first information ; and

means for determining in response to the second request whether or not the second request is allowed according to at least identifying information included in the second request, said identifying information (URI) identifying said first information,

wherein if the second request is allowed, said second information is displayed as being linked to said first information.

34. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 33, wherein the determining means:

acquires from the second request an identifier code (ID) specifying second information for which quotation is allowed in the second information resource;

conducts retrieval through a database including a correspondence between an identifier code (ID) specifying second information for which quotation is allowed in the second information providing resource and an identifier of first information in the first information providing source; and

allowing the second request when an identifier of the first information corresponds to an identifier code specified by the second request in the database.

35. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 34, wherein:

the predetermined program code has a password;

the second request includes an identifier code to identify the second information to be quoted and the password; and

the determining means further includes means for collating the password in the second request received from the information user unit with a valid password.

36. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the determining means allows the second request when the password in the second request is a valid password and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

37. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 36, further including means for frequently changing a password in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

38. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 34, wherein:
the program code includes an encryption key to encrypt the second request;
the second request includes information obtained by encrypting an identifier code to identify the second information according to the encryption key; and
the determining means further includes means for verifying to determine whether or not the second request can be decoded.

39. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 38, wherein the determining means allows the second request when the second request can be decoded and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

40. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 39, further including means for frequently changing an encryption key in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

41. (Currently Amended) An information distribution system connecting a primary information providing unit for providing a primary information, a quoted information providing unit providing quoted information quoted by said primary information and an information display unit displaying provided information, wherein
said information display unit requests said quoted information providing unit to transmit a program code for controlling display of said quoted information based on information for quoting said quoted information included in said primary information when said primary information is displayed;
said quoted information providing unit transmits said program code to said information display unit,

said information display unit starts execution of said program code, and provides an identifier to said program code, said identifier specifying said primary information and being utilized in a check; and

according to the execution of said program code, it is checked as to whether or not quotation of said quoted information by said primary information is allowed based on said identifier and information indicating a correspondence between an identifier (ID) specifying said quoted information and the identifier (URI) specifying said primary information,

wherein if said quoted information is allowed, said quoted information is displayed at said information display unit as being linked to said primary information.

42. (Previously Presented) An information distribution system according to claim 41, wherein said information display unit displays the provided information according to a result of the check.

43. (Previously Presented) An information distribution system according to claim 41, wherein said information display unit displays said quoted information if a result of the check indicates that quotation of said quoted information is allowed.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer readable program code which is required to be transmitted from a quoted information providing unit to an information display unit displaying a primary information provided by a primary information providing unit, wherein

said program code is for controlling display of said quoted information;

said program code is included in said primary information and based on information for quoting said quoted information; and

said program code is transmitted from said quoted information providing unit to said information display unit in response to a transmission request made by said information display unit to said quoted information providing unit;

said program code is executed in said information display unit; and

according to the execution of said program code, said program code obtains from said information display unit an identifier specifying said primary information and being utilized in a check, and it is checked as to whether or not quotation of said quoted information by said primary information is allowed based on said identifier,

wherein if said quoted information is allowed, said quoted information is displayed at said information display unit as being linked to said primary information.

46. (Previously Presented) A recording medium according to claim 45, wherein said program code makes said information display unit display the provided information according to a result of the check.

47. (Previously Presented) A recording medium according to claim 45, wherein said program code makes said information display unit display said quoted information if a result of the check indicates that quotation of said quoted information is allowed.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) An information display apparatus displaying a primary information provided from a primary information providing unit and a quoted information quoted from said primary information providing unit, wherein said information display apparatus

requests a quoted information providing unit to transmit a program code for controlling display of said quoted information based on information for quoting said quoted information included in said primary information when said primary information is displayed;

receives said program code from said quoted information providing unit; provides an identifier to said program code, said identifier specifying said primary information and being utilized in a check; and

starts execution of said program code, and then according to the execution of said program code, it is checked as to whether or not quotation of said quoted information by said primary information is allowed based on said identifier.

wherein if quotation of said quoted information is allowed, said quoted information is displayed at said information display unit as being linked to said primary information.

50. (Previously Presented) An information display apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said information display apparatus displays the provided information according to a result of the check.

51. (Previously Presented) An information display apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said information display apparatus displays said quoted information if a result of the check indicates that quotation of said quoted information is allowed.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) A quoted information providing apparatus providing quoted information quoted from a primary information displayed by an information display unit to said information display unit, wherein

said quoted information providing apparatus has a program code for controlling display of said quoted information on said information display unit;

said quoted information providing apparatus transmits said program code to said information display unit in response to a transmission request made by said information display unit to said quoted information providing unit;

said program code is executed in said information display unit, and obtains an identifier specifying said primary information utilized in a check from said information display unit; and

according to the execution of said program code, it is checked as to whether or not quotation of said quoted information by said primary information is allowed based on said identifier,

wherein if said quoted information is allowed, said quoted information is displayed at said information display unit as being linked to said primary information.

54. (Previously Presented) A quoted information providing apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said program code makes said information display unit display the provided information according to a result of the check.

55. (Previously Presented) A quoted information providing apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said program code makes said information display unit display said quoted information if a result of the check indicates that quotation of said quoted information is allowed.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) An information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said information indicating the correspondence between an identifier code (ID) specifying the second information and said identifier of said first information is stored in a database.